

# San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

375 Beale Street, Suite 510, San Francisco, California 94105 tel 415 352 3600 fax 888 348 5190

State of California | Gavin Newsom – Governor | [info@bcdc.ca.gov](mailto:info@bcdc.ca.gov) | [www.bcdc.ca.gov](http://www.bcdc.ca.gov)

October 14, 2022

**TO:** Commissioners and Alternates

**FROM:** Lawrence J. Goldzband, Executive Director (415/352-3653; [larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov](mailto:larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov))  
Dana Brechwald, Adapting to Rising Tides Program Manager (415/352-3656;  
[dana.brechwald@bcdc.ca.gov](mailto:dana.brechwald@bcdc.ca.gov))

**SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation on Two Resolutions to Approve Grant Funds from (1) the Ocean Protection Council and (2) the State Coastal Conservancy for Bay Adapt Joint Platform Implementation**

(For Commission consideration on October 20, 2022)

## Summary

The staff recommends that the Commission adopt two resolutions to accept grant funding from the Ocean Protection Council (\$2,179,843) and State Coastal Conservancy (\$3,011,000) to implement key tasks identified in the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, totaling \$5,190,843.

On October 20, 2021, the Commission adopted the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, including the guiding principles, actions, and tasks within the Joint Platform. The Commission also resolved to lead and support the implementation of Bay Adapt by serving as the “backbone” agency responsible for leading and managing the overall initiative, acting as the Lead or Co-Lead for key tasks, and participating in and advising on numerous other tasks. Staff discussed specific implementation priorities with the Commission on June 16, 2022.

Since Commission adoption, staff have sought funding to implement these key tasks. On June 14, 2022, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) approved an action to authorize up to \$2,179,843 to BCDC for the development of a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan and beneficial reuse of sediment. On September 22, 2022, the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) approved an action to authorize the disbursement of up to \$3,011,000 to BCDC to implement Bay Adapt Joint Platform tasks and actions related to (1) development of Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance; (2) regulatory improvements; and (3) continued coordination with stakeholders and communities. The tasks approved for funding by OPC and SCC align with both the Commission’s priorities for Bay Adapt implementation as well as priorities identified by the respective agencies.

Staff recommend that the Commission adopt the following resolutions:

1. Resolution 2022-03 Approving the Application for and/or Execution of Funds from the Ocean Protection Council Under the Environmental License Plate Funds; and
2. Resolution 2022-04 Approving the Grant of Funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for Bay Adapt Joint Platform Implementation.



## Background

Coastal adaptation to rising sea level is a state priority to avoid devastating impacts to people, the economy, and natural habitats. Despite having only one-third of the state's coastline, two-thirds of California's economic losses due to rising sea level are forecast to occur in the nine-county Bay Area, absent adaptation actions. The San Francisco Bay is a state-protected resource that is the largest estuary on the West Coast of North and South America, a key part of the Pacific Flyway for migrating waterfowl, and a critical economic driver of the State's economy.

With the assistance and leadership of BCDC, significant progress has been made in the Bay Area by cities and counties to plan for a changing shoreline and establish shoreline ecosystem restoration and other flood protection projects. Yet many of the adaptation plans and projects already occurring within the Bay Area are disconnected and disjointed. Absent regional collaboration and a shared vision, we risk: disproportionate impacts to less affluent, disadvantaged communities; a patchwork of protective actions with varying levels of protection; inconsistent interpretation and application of the best statewide science; competition, not collaboration, for limited funding; near-term loss of wetlands; and, no way to measure collective progress.

To protect people, property, and habitat and prevent this "tragedy of the commons," BCDC created and has dedicated the last three years to leading Bay Adapt — a voluntary, diverse, and collaborative regional initiative to develop a consensus-driven strategy to protect people and the built and natural environments from a rising Bay. The Bay Adapt Joint Platform lays out guiding principles, nine priority actions, and 21 tasks whose implementation will enable the region to adapt faster, better, and more equitably to a rising Bay.

On October 21, 2021, the Commission adopted a formal resolution supporting and championing the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, including the guiding principles, actions, and tasks contained within, and resolving to lead and support the implementation of Bay Adapt by serving as the "backbone" agency responsible for leading and managing the overall initiative, acting as the Lead or Co-Lead for key tasks, and participating in and advising on numerous other tasks.

On June 16, 2022, BCDC staff discussed a set of priority actions with the Commission for BCDC to lead, including:

1. Increasing community capacity by shaping and directing local funding for community capacity building and community-led adaptation planning.
2. Creating a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan including regional sea level rise adaptation planning guidance and sub-regional implementation plans, and expanding online platforms for regional shoreline adaptation plan data and project maps.
3. Exploring regulatory improvements to refine and accelerate regulatory approvals and internally assess BCDC's regulatory and policy tools.
4. Continuation of BCDC's role as the Bay Adapt backbone agency by convening stakeholders, tracking progress on implementation, and ensuring equity throughout the process.

Expanded BCDC leadership capacity is necessary to support, guide, and implement Bay Adapt and execute these identified tasks. BCDC is uniquely positioned to continue its role as strategic convener, facilitator, and lead implementer to catalyze local and regional adaptation action. Therefore, BCDC sought funding partners to expand its capacity.

BCDC began conversations with the Ocean Protection Council and the State Coastal Conservancy to provide this funding and enter into partnership agreements to implement priority tasks. Together, BCDC, OPC, and SCC staff drafted work plans that advanced the priority tasks identified above as well as OPC's Strategic Plan *Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change; Objective 1.1: Build Resiliency to Sea-Level Rise, Coastal Storms, Erosion, and Flooding*; and the State Coastal Conservancy's *Project Selection Criteria*.

On June 14, 2022, the Ocean Protection Council approved an action to authorize up to \$2,084,427 to BCDC to develop a Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay, which advances the Joint Platform by developing a regional coastal resiliency strategy and guidance document with planning criteria and minimum standards to align Bay Area counties' sea-level rise implementation plans; and up to \$95,406 to support efforts to advance beneficial reuse of sediment in and around San Francisco Bay for habitat restoration, for a total of \$2,179,843 (see Attachment A).

On September 22, 2022, the State Coastal Conservancy approved an action to authorize the disbursement of up to \$3,011,000 to BCDC to implement Bay Adapt Joint Platform tasks and actions related to (1) development of Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance; (2) regulatory improvements; and (3) continued coordination with stakeholders and communities (see Attachment B).

The \$5,190,843 in combined approved grant funds is anticipated to support the following for approximately three years:

1. \$5,095,427 for Bay Adapt Implementation, including:
  - a. Six new staff to lead, manage, and support a new Bay Adapt program area and develop a regional, community-based Shoreline Adaptation Plan;
  - b. Contract and limited term staff support for the Shoreline Adaptation Plan, data and mapping, and backbone tasks;
  - c. Stipend and grants for EJ Advisor participation and frontline community, regional, and local government engagement to spur implementation across 9 counties, 46 cities, and scores of special districts.
2. \$85,406 in matching funds for a previously approved \$284,718 EPA grant to support beneficial reuse of sediment (approved by the Commission March 17, 2021).

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend that the Commission adopt the following resolutions:

1. Resolution 2022-03 Approving the Application for and/or Execution of Funds from the Ocean Protection Council Under the Environmental License Plate Funds; and
2. Resolution 2022-04 Approving the Grant of Funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for Bay Adapt Joint Platform Implementation



## OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

### ATTACHMENT A

Wade Crowfoot | Secretary for Natural Resources | Council Chair  
Jared Blumenfeld | Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Betty Yee | State Controller  
Ben Allen | State Senator  
Mark Stone | State Assemblymember  
Michael Brown | Public Member  
Jordan Diamond | Public Member

Item 4b

### Staff Recommendation

June 14, 2022

### Regional Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay

Ella McDougall, Climate Change Program Manager

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$2,084,437 to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to: develop a Regional Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay, which advances the Bay Adapt Joint Platform by developing a regional coastal resiliency strategy and guidance document with planning criteria and minimum standards to align Bay Area counties' sea-level rise (SLR) implementation plans; and up to \$95,406 to support efforts to advance beneficial use of sediment in and around San Francisco Bay for habitat restoration, for a total of \$2,179,843.

**LOCATION:** San Francisco Bay Area

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** Goal 1: Safeguard Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Communities in the Face of Climate Change; Objective 1.1: Build Resiliency to Sea-Level Rise, Coastal Storms, Erosion, and Flooding

### FINDINGS AND RESOLUTION:

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) adopt the following findings:

"Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibit(s), OPC hereby finds that:

1. The proposed projects are consistent with the purposes of Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, the California Ocean Protection Act;
2. The proposed projects are consistent with OPC's Environmental License Plate Funding Guidelines (Interim Standards and Protocols, August 2013);
3. The proposed projects are not 'legal projects' that trigger the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section, section 15378."

Staff further recommends that OPC adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 35500 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“OPC hereby approves the disbursement of up to \$2,084,437 to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to develop the Regional Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay, which advances the Bay Adapt Joint Platform by developing a regional coastal resiliency strategy and guidance document with planning criteria and minimum standards for the Bay Area counties’ SLR implementation plans; and up to \$95,406 support efforts to advance beneficial use of sediment in and around San Francisco Bay for habitat restoration, for a total of up to \$2,179,843.

This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to disbursement of funds, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Director of the OPC detailed work plans, schedules, staff requirements, budgets, and the names of any contractors intended to be used to complete the projects, as well as discrete deliverables that can be produced in intervals to ensure the projects are on target for successful completion. All projects will be developed under a shared understanding of process, management and delivery.”

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

SLR poses a significant threat to communities, infrastructure and habitats around San Francisco Bay. Coordinated and standardized adaptation planning and project implementation along the Bay shoreline is crucial to building resilience and protecting public health and safety, access, and the health of the Bay. Providing funding to BCDC to develop a Regional SLR Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay (Guidance) will support the development of criteria and minimum standards for resilience planning and provide a framework for Bay Area jurisdictions to create SLR adaptation implementation plans. It will help implement the Bay Adapt Joint Platform to align community priorities to address shoreline resilience and support further community outreach, progress tracking, and capacity building.

Recommended funding will also fill a minor but critical budget gap in BCDC’s implementation of a recently awarded Environmental Protection Agency grant to support the advancement of beneficial use of sediment in and around the San Francisco Bay for habitat restoration projects. Prioritizing beneficial use of sediment will maximize efficiencies, resources and the successful design and implementation of restorations projects, which will provide multiple benefits for biodiversity and coastal resilience. OPC’s investment will allow BCDC to complete: a stakeholder-informed process to identify next steps and roles to increase beneficial use; a Financing Strategy that establishes a roadmap for funding beneficial use projects;

and an amendment to the San Francisco Bay Plan to establish policies that allow for, and potentially require, more beneficial use around San Francisco Bay.

## PROJECT SUMMARY:

### Background:

SLR adaptation: The San Francisco Bay (Bay) shoreline constitutes a third of California's coast and because of historical development, is particularly vulnerable to SLR. According to the [Bay Adapt Joint Platform](#), the Bay could incur two thirds of the economic repercussions caused by the impacts of rising sea levels, threatening communities, ecosystem health, and one of the largest regional economies in the world. The Bay Area represents a complicated and broad array of jurisdictions, regulatory agencies, community organizations, and special interests, many of which have begun independent, SLR adaptation planning efforts with varying levels of regional coordination. This results in a lack of consistency with unequal implications across the Bay, with consequences for the Bay's diverse communities, biodiversity, public access, and critical infrastructure.

To begin developing a roadmap for how the Bay Area will adapt to SLR, BCDC embarked on the creation of the Bay Adapt Joint Platform in 2020. Over the past decade, BCDC has earned the reputation of being a trusted partner in climate adaptation and a strategic convener and facilitator to catalyze local and regional action, primarily through its nationally recognized [Adapting to Rising Tides \(ART\)](#) program. Bay Adapt builds on the success of the ART program by focusing on the people, information, plans, and projects that will catalyze protection of communities, businesses, infrastructure, and natural habitats from the impacts of rising sea and bay levels. The Bay Adapt Joint Platform resulting actions are as follows:

1. Collaborate on a "One Bay" vision to adapt to rising sea levels.
2. Elevate communities to lead.
3. Broaden public understanding of climate change science and impacts.
4. Base plans and projects on the best science, data, and knowledge.
5. Align local and regional plans into a unified adaptation approach.
6. Figure out how to fund adaptation.
7. Refine and accelerate regulatory approvals processes.
8. Fund and facilitate faster adaptation projects.
9. Track and report progress to guide future actions.

While there is broad regional agreement on the path forward, strong leadership and consistent resources are needed to implement the Bay Adapt Joint Platform. Additionally, Bay Adapt provides a high-level regional vision, but does not provide specifics for adaptation implementation planning. Council funding for this project is critical to continuing the Bay Adapt progress.



In order to facilitate coordination, the Bay Adapt process is leveraging [EcoAtlas](#), a webtool designed to share information and monitor wetland habitats in relation to surrounding development such as land use and transportation. Within EcoAtlas, the Project Tracker tool shows individual projects related to habitat modification, stream and wetland restoration, and conservation. Information dashboards show data summaries that are easy to understand and use by regional managers, policy makers, and the general public.

*Beneficial use of sediment:* A recent report published by the San Francisco Estuary Institute entitled “[Sediment for Survival](#)” determined that there is a severe sediment shortage in San Francisco Bay that will affect wetland restoration efforts and the ability of tidal marshes around the Bay to keep pace with sea-level rise. The report determined that up to 650 million cubic yards of sediment are needed to restore and sustain wetland habitat in San Francisco Bay through 2100 and identified beneficial use of dredged sediment and other sources of soil as the best way to meet this demand. However, lack of an actionable road map, as well as policy and funding constraints (including the US Army Corps of Engineers’ Federal Standard to dispose dredged material at the least costly dredged material disposal or placement alternative) have resulted in only 40% of dredged sediment being used for wetland restoration projects over the past 20 years. Increasing in-Bay placement of dredged material will accelerate critical wetland restoration projects that provide biodiversity and climate resilience benefits.

### **Project Summary:**

*Regional SLR Adaptation Guidance.* The Regional SLR Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay will address the need for coordination and consistency through development of a shared set of criteria, minimum standards, and a framework for SLR standardized adaptation planning and project implementation. This project directly supports OPC’s Strategic Plan target to ensure the entire California coast is planning for and adapting to SLR (Target 1.1.1), and that a template and set of criteria/minimum standards are created and utilized for consistent SLR adaptation planning (Target 1.1.5). In addition to these Strategic Plan Targets, the [State Agency Sea-Level Rise Action Plan](#), released by OPC in February of 2022, also calls for the development and implementation of SLR adaptation plans across the entire coast of California by 2026, as well as the accelerated implementation of the Bay Adapt Joint Platform (Action 5.12). The Action Plan, a collaborative road map to achieve coastal resiliency along the coast of California, was created through significant collaboration within the SLR Leadership Team, of which BCDP is an active and dedicated member.

This project will accomplish the following objectives:



- Establish a Task Force of regional leaders including elected officials and representatives from local agencies and communities. This group will champion the regional SLR planning process and leverage political will.
- Develop the Regional SLR Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay. This guidance document will build off the vision of Bay Adapt, which calls for collaboration to identify a unified 'One Bay' vision. It will show alignment with other regional planning efforts including Plan Bay Area 206 and the Bay Area Regional Collaborative Work Plan.
- Determine criteria and minimum standards for county and sub-regional SLR implementation plans. Nested within the Regional SLR Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay, these criteria will give local jurisdictions the guidance needed to create their own consistent and uniform SLR implementation plans. Criteria should include specifications for cross-jurisdictional impacts and evaluation of local and regional tradeoffs, as well as new and redevelopment standards for SLR, habitat, transit, and prioritization of projects.
- Scope an incentive structure to encourage counties and subregions to develop SLR implementation plans consistent with the criteria and minimum standards in the final Guidance. This may be based on future funding or other mechanisms.
- Enable BCDC staff to offer technical support for development of SLR implementation plans. Staff, existing and new, will work with county and subregional staff to offer consultation and guidance for applying criteria to SLR implementation plans.
- Expand the preexisting online mapping application, EcoAtlas and the Project Tracker to include adaptation plans, projects, and relevant datasets to create a comprehensive picture of the shoreline's progress toward resiliency. EcoAtlas will also serve as a platform to facilitate communication and connect community organizations working on similar projects.

This project funding is a component of a larger effort to support BCDC's work to address SLR through the implementation of Bay Adapt. The State Coastal Conservancy is anticipated to provide approximately \$3,000,000 to BCDC to broaden work on outreach, projects and planning.

*Beneficial Use of Sediment.* OPC funds will also help support increased beneficial use of sediment for wetland restoration projects in San Francisco Bay. BCDC was recently awarded an Environmental Protection Agency Wetlands Program Development Grant to advance new sediment management policies for wetland restoration and climate resilience. OPC funding would fill a minor budget gap to ensure that BCDC can complete this work, with the goal of increasing use of dredged material for wetland restoration in the Bay. This project will produce stakeholder-informed reports that outline necessary steps and respective roles to increase beneficial use. Input will be provided by restoration, dredging, flood

protection, environmental justice, conservation, and construction interests, as well as relevant local/state/federal agencies. It will also include an amendment to the San Francisco Bay Plan to establish policies that allow for, and potentially require more beneficial use around San Francisco Bay. The project will also include the development of a financing strategy that identifies challenges, costs, financing approaches, and appropriate funding sources that will lead to an implementation roadmap for funding beneficial use projects, and creating a framework for increased wetland restoration (and associated biodiversity and climate resilience benefits) throughout San Francisco Bay.

### **About the Grantee:**

Established in 1965, BCDC's mission is to protect and enhance San Francisco Bay and encourage the Bay's responsible and productive use for this and future generations. Over the past decade, BCDC has embraced climate adaptation work, earning the reputation of being a trusted partner and strategic facilitator to catalyze local and regional action. This has occurred primarily through its nationally recognized Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program. BCDC and Bay Adapt's diverse community engagement and visioning has set the precedent that this agency is well-suited to receive funding for the implementation the Bay Adapt Joint Platform by developing the Guidance.

### **Project Timeline**

The proposed project will begin in July 2022 and end in December 2026.

### **PROJECT FINANCING:**

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) authorize encumbrance of up to \$2,179,843 to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to develop the Regional Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay and support efforts to advance beneficial use of sediment for habitat restoration in and around San Francisco Bay. The State Coastal Conservancy will provide approximately \$3,000,000 to support Bay Adapt implementation. The US Environmental Protection Agency and BCDC are providing \$379,124 to support the beneficial use policy effort.

Ocean Protection Council	<b>\$2,179,843</b>
State Coastal Conservancy (approximation) – Bay Adapt Implementation	<b>\$3,000,000</b>
Environmental Protection Agency – Beneficial Use	<b>\$284,718</b>
BCDC (in-kind) – Beneficial Use	<b>\$94,406</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,555,967</b>
--------------	--------------------

The anticipated source of funds will be from the Ocean Protection Council's Fiscal Year 2018/2019 appropriation of California Environmental License Plate Funds (ELPF). Using these funds to support this project is consistent with the California Ocean Protection Act, Section 35650(b), as well as OPC's Strategic Plan and Grant Program Funding Guidelines as discussed in more detail in the following section.

#### **CONSISTENCY WITH CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION ACT:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Ocean Protection Act, Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, because it is consistent with trust-fund allowable projects, defined in Public Resources Code Section 35650(b)(2) as projects which:

- Allow for increased public access to, and enjoyment of, ocean and coastal resources, consistent with sustainable, long-term protection and conservation of those resources.
- Improve management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems.
- Provide funding for adaptive management, planning coordination, monitoring, research, and other necessary activities to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on California's ocean ecosystem.

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA.

Staff Recommendation  
September 22, 2022

**BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION JOINT PLATFORM IMPLEMENTATION**

Project No. 22-022-01  
Project Manager: Evyan Borgnis Sloane

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$3,570,000 to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to implement Bay Adapt Joint Platform tasks and actions related to: (1) development of Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance; (2) regulatory improvements; and (3) continued coordination with stakeholders and communities.

**LOCATION:** Nine-County San Francisco Bay Area

---

**EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)  
Exhibit 2: [Letter of Support – Bay Adapt Joint Platform](#)  
Exhibit 3: [OPC Staff Recommendation, June 14, 2022](#)  
Exhibit 4: [Conservancy Staff Recommendation, September 6, 2018](#)
- 

**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed three million five hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$3,570,000) to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (“the grantee”) to implement the Bay Adapt Joint Platform tasks and actions related to: (1) development of Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance; (2) regulatory improvements; and (3) continued coordination with stakeholders and communities.

Prior to commencement of the project, the grantee shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:

1. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.

2. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the project.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.

---

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

### PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize disbursement of up to three million five hundred seventy thousand dollars to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) to implement the Bay Adapt Joint Platform tasks and actions related to: (1) development of Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance; (2) regulatory improvements; and (3) continued coordination with stakeholders and communities in the nine-county Bay Area (see Exhibit 1). Since 2019 BCDC has led Bay Adapt, a regional strategy to protect people and the natural and built environments from rising sea levels. Actions to implement the principles, goals, actions, and tasks in Bay Adapt are described in the Bay Adapt Joint Platform, which was developed collaboratively by over 30 regional executive leaders (see letter of support from the Conservancy's Executive Officer in Exhibit 2).

The San Francisco Bay shoreline constitutes a third of California's coast and because of historical development, is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise. According to the [Bay Adapt Joint Platform](#), the Bay could incur two thirds of the economic repercussions caused by the impacts of rising sea levels, threatening communities, ecosystem health, and one of the largest economies in the world. The Bay Area represents a complicated and broad array of jurisdictions, regulatory agencies, community organizations, and special interests, many of which have begun independent, sea level rise adaptation planning efforts with varying levels of regional coordination. This results in a lack of consistency with unequal implications across the Bay, with consequences for the Bay's diverse communities, biodiversity, public access, and critical infrastructure.

The Bay Adapt Joint Platform lays out guiding principles, region-wide actions, and specific tasks to achieve faster, better, and more equitable adaptation that will result in:

- Protection of natural areas and wildlife.
- Reduced flood risk for communities, businesses, infrastructure, and habitats.
- Robust integration of adaptation into community-focused local plans.
- Recognition and equitable support for low-income communities.
- Accelerated permitting and project construction.
- Technical assistance for local governments.

The proposed project is to implement the Joint Platform tasks and actions related to: (1) development of Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance; (2) regulatory improvements; and (3) continued coordination with stakeholders and communities. The tasks and actions to be carried out with the recommended funding are described below.

Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance: BCDC will prepare regional sea level rise adaptation guidance by establishing and working with a task force that will include elected officials and representatives from local jurisdictions and community organizations to help. The guidance will determine criteria and minimum standards for county and sub-regional sea level rise implementation plans. Of particular importance to the Conservancy's ability to evaluate future project proposals, the guidance will also include clear approaches and methods to determine and address potential cross-jurisdictional impacts when developing projects of varying types and scales. The process will specify how projects and planning at various stages (some starting now) will be incorporated and/or integrated into the regional framework. Conservancy funds will augment the California Ocean Protection Council's (OPC's) June 14, 2022 authorization of funds to BCDC for this task (see Exhibit 3).

Regulatory Improvements: BCDC will analyze on-going studies on permitting efficiencies throughout the region as well as analyze their own internal laws, policies, structures, and regulatory processes for inefficiencies and barriers. With this information, BCDC will develop a list of permitting challenges, conflicting regulations, redundant regulations, and regulatory "gaps" as well as create potential processes, regulations, and/or policy changes to address the challenges identified.

BCDC will also develop support tools and trainings for applicants working on adaptation projects to navigate the BCDC permitting processes. This will go beyond BCDC's Climate Change Policy Guidance (released in 2021) to include an overview of their entire permitting process (not just climate change policies) and provide guidance on project design best practices for accelerated permitting. BCDC Bay Adapt planning staff will also provide BCDC permit analysts additional support in analyzing climate adaptation permit applications internally.

BCDC will develop a conceptual recommendation for how to increase multi-agency and applicant collaboration for climate adaptation projects, including potential funding sources and an action plan for implementing the recommendations. Potential recommendations include creating a working group of regulatory agency staff that meets quarterly as an "Adaptive Management" clearinghouse or expanding the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) to cover additional green or "hybrid" (green-grey) shoreline protection projects.

Last, BCDC will continue to participate in the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT) with staff on the permit analyst team as well as a manager on the Policy Management Committee. The BRRIT was formed to improve the permitting process for multi-benefit habitat restoration projects and associated flood management and public access infrastructure in the San Francisco Bay and along the shoreline of the nine Bay Area counties. On September 6, 2018 the Conservancy authorized disbursement of \$250,000 annually to support staff at the state and federal agencies participating in the BRRIT (Exhibit 4), to leverage the \$650,000 of annual

funding authorized by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. The proposed project will fully fund the BRRIT permit analyst staff at BCDC for the fourth and fifth year of BRRIT implementation. While the BRRIT is fully funded for at least five years, additional state funds are needed due to San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority contracting issues with two of the state regulatory agencies.

Continued Coordination with Stakeholders and Communities to Implement Bay Adapt Joint Platform: BCDC will serve the role of the “backbone agency” to continue to support the advancement of Bay Adapt for approximately 3 years. This will result in ongoing planning, communication, tracking, convening, metrics, and funding for implementing Bay Adapt. For instance, BCDC will develop a long-term equity strategy with stakeholders and communities for the Bay Adapt program. They will also develop success metrics and transparently measure and report progress on the strategic advancement of the Joint Platform tasks. BCDC will continue to engage and involve Bay Adapt partners by maintaining an accessible and engaging website and host community events, listening sessions, public forums, or other feedback opportunities to ensure the needs of the region are continually considered in Bay Adapt.

**Site Description:** San Francisco Bay’s shoreline constitutes about 1/3 of the entire California coastline, but the Bay Area will incur 2/3 of the harmful economic impacts caused by rising sea level — threatening the most ecologically significant estuary on the West Coast, one of the largest economies in the world, and hundreds of culturally and socially diverse communities that call the Bay Area home.

**Grant Applicant Qualifications:** Established in 1965, BCDC’s mission is to protect and enhance San Francisco Bay and encourage the Bay’s responsible and productive use for this and future generations. Over the past decade, BCDC has embraced climate adaptation work, earning the reputation of being a trusted partner and strategic facilitator to catalyze local and regional action. This has occurred primarily through its nationally recognized Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program. BCDC and the Bay Adapt program’s diverse community engagement and visioning has set the precedent that this agency is well-suited to receive funding for the implementation the Bay Adapt Joint Platform by developing the Guidance. To aid BCDC in developing the Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance, they will form a Task Force composed of local elected officials, climate champions, and climate scientists/experts and a Steering Committee of community-based organizations and local agencies.

#### **CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy’s Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, in the following respects:

##### **Selection Criteria**

##### **1. Extent to which the project helps the Conservancy accomplishes the objectives in the Strategic Plan.**

See the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Strategic Plan” section below.



**2. Project is a good investment of state resources.**

Implementing the Bay Adapt Joint Platform is a good investment of state resources given the extensive community engagement and visioning that has already occurred to develop the project's priority initiatives. These initiatives have existing momentum and advance existing goals of funding, regulatory, and local agencies. The proposed project tasks of developing the Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance, improving regulatory processes, and coordination with stakeholders and communities represent the initiatives that BCDC is uniquely suited to lead, participate in, or advise on. Given the previous work to develop the Bay Adapt program and BCDC's history of implementing the Adapting to Rising Tides Program, the proposed project is feasible with a reasonable budget that is based on similar, prior work.

**3. Project includes a serious effort to engage tribes. Examples of tribal engagement include good faith, documented efforts to work with tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated to the project area.**

On July 13, 2022 the State Coastal Conservancy notified local tribes throughout the nine counties of the Bay Area of the project details. The 29 tribes contacted included:

- Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista
- Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community
- Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians
- Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians of CA
- Cortina Rancheria - Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians
- Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe
- Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
- Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Guidiville Rancheria of California
- Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan (San Jose)
- Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
- Koi Nation of Northern California (Lower Lake Rancheria)
- Lytton Rancheria of California
- Mishewal-Wapo Tribe of Alexander Valley
- Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe
- North Valley Yokuts Tribe
- Pinoleville Pomo Nation
- Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
- Rumsen Ama Turataj
- Tamien Nation
- The Association of Ramaytush Ohlone
- The Confederated Villages of Lisjan
- The Ohlone Indian Tribe
- Tule River Indian River Tribe

- Wilton Rancheria
- Wuksache Indian Tribe Eshom Valley Band
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

**4. Project benefits will be sustainable or resilient over the project lifespan.**

In less than 30 years, the Bay Area could face significant flooding impacts to 13,000 existing housing units and 70,000 planned housing units, 28,000 socially vulnerable residents, 104,000 existing jobs and 85,000 planned jobs, and 20,000 acres of wetlands. The adaptation plans and projects already occurring within the Bay Area are isolated and inconsistent due to limited local planning lacking regional support and integration. Adapting to a rising Bay requires a coordinated and collaborative approach across the region's array of jurisdictions, regulatory agencies, communities, and special interests. After two years of complex analysis and stakeholder engagement, BCDC's Bay Adapt initiative has created the Joint Platform to lay out how to do exactly this. Rather than identifying specific projects, the Bay Adapt Joint Platform lays out guiding principles, region-wide actions, and specific tasks to achieve faster, better, and more equitable adaptation. This proposed project will implement the Bay Adapt Joint Platform tasks and actions related to: (1) development of Regional Sea Level Rise Adaptation Guidance; (2) regulatory improvements; and (3) continued coordination with stakeholders and communities.

**5. Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.**

Implementing the Bay Adapt Joint Platform will result in the region-wide collaboration that is needed to address climate impacts to frontline communities, create a mosaic of complimentary protective actions across the shoreline (instead of an incomplete patchwork with varying degrees of protection), provide consistent interpretation and application of the best statewide science, collaborate among local agencies and communities for limited funding, restore shoreline habitat function and resilience, and collectively measure progress. For instance, the Regional Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation Guidance for San Francisco Bay will develop criteria and minimum standards for resilience planning based on the best available, regional science, and provide a framework for Bay Area jurisdictions to create SLR adaptation implementation plans. It will also help align community priorities to address shoreline resilience and support further community outreach, progress tracking, and capacity building.

**6. Project planned with meaningful community engagement and broad community support.**

Development of the Bay Adapt program and Joint Platform was informed by dozens of stakeholders work group meetings, one public forum, 10 community and stakeholder focus groups, over 50 presentations to boards and groups around the region, and an environmental justice caucus convened regularly throughout the process. BCDC Bay Adapt staff also made dozens of presentations to interested groups, local government staff, and elected officials all around the Bay.

**PROJECT FINANCING**

<b>Coastal Conservancy</b>	<b>\$3,570,000</b>
California Ocean Protection Council	\$2,084,437
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$5,654,437</b>

Conservancy funding for all portions of this project except the BRRIT is anticipated to come from a Fiscal Year 2022/23 appropriation from the General Fund to the Conservancy for the purpose of climate resilience. (The Budget Act of 2022, SB 154.) The proposed project is consistent with this funding source because it is a Climate Ready project that will help implement a regional strategy to protect people and the natural and built environments from rising sea levels.

Conservancy funding for the BRRIT portion of the project is anticipated to come from the fiscal year 2018/19 appropriation to the Conservancy from the “California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018,” Public Resources Code Section 80000, et seq. (Proposition 68) for purposes of Chapter 8, Section 80110(b)(10), which allocates funds for projects that are eligible for grants under the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act, Government Code Section 66700, et seq (Restoration Authority Act). Projects eligible for grants under the Restoration Authority Act are those that protect, restore, or enhance tidal wetlands, managed ponds or natural habitats on the shoreline in the San Francisco Bay area (resource protection projects) or that provide flood protection or public access as part of a resource protection project. Government Code Section 66704.5. Funding the BRRIT is an appropriate use of Proposition 68 Chapter 8 funds because the BRRIT will expedite the permitting of projects that are eligible for Restoration Authority Act grants. Section 80110(b)(10) requires a matching grant for Conservancy grants under this subsection, which is met by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority’s previous contributions for the BRRIT.

At its June 14, 2022 meeting, the OPC authorized funds in the amount of \$2,084,437 that are anticipated to come from the OPC’s Fiscal Year 2018/19 appropriation of California Environmental License Plate Funds (ELPF).

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

The recommended project would be undertaken pursuant to Section 31113 of Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, which authorizes the Conservancy to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within the Conservancy’s jurisdiction (Section 31113(a)). The recommended project will plan for addressing the impacts of sea level rise on resources within the Conservancy’s nine-county San Francisco Bay Area jurisdiction (Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code).

Pursuant to Section 31113, subsections (b) and (c), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to undertake projects that include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and addressing extreme weather events, sea level rise, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and

natural resources. Furthermore, the Conservancy must prioritize grants for projects that maximize public benefits and have one of several purposes, including reducing flood risk, enhancing coastal wetlands and natural lands, and providing recreational opportunities. The proposed project meets these criteria because it will grant funds to a public agency (BCDC) to develop guidance for plans to protect infrastructure from sea level rise; reduce flood risk; and enhance recreational opportunities on the shoreline, likely including segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S [2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN](#) GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

Consistent with **Goal 8, Objective A** of the Conservancy's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will underpin development of adaptation plans that will address sea level rise.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE:**

The proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines at California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15262, which exempts feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions from the requirement to prepare an Environmental Impact Report or negative declaration, and 15306, which exempts from CEQA basic data collection, research, and resource evaluation activities that will not disturb environmental resources. The proposed project consists of planning activities, preparation of designs, and review of environmental effects, none of which will disturb environmental resources and all of which will be undertaken for possible future actions that the Conservancy has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval of this project